

Implementation Committee for the Proposed Legal Paraprofessionals Pilot

The [Implementation Committee for the Proposed Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project](#) was first announced in March of 2019. The Implementation Committee will determine the scope and work of the forthcoming pilot. This effort is an outgrowth of the recommendations made by the 2017 Minnesota State Bar Association's [Alternative Legal Models Task Force](#). The intent of the Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project is to improve access to civil legal representation in case types where one or both parties typically appear without legal representation.

The Implementation Committee was established by Minnesota Supreme Court's order, [ADM19-8002](#). The order states that the scope of the potential legal paraprofessional work that the Implementation Committee is to consider is limited to providing "legal advice" and "in some cases representing" clients or parties in either creditor-debtor disputes, housing disputes, or family law matters under the supervision of a licensed Minnesota attorney.

Implementation Committee Membership

Minnesota Supreme Court Associate [Justice Paul C. Thissen](#) and Minnesota Court of Appeals [Judge John R. Rodenberg](#) co-chair the Implementation Committee. Legal experts from throughout Minnesota make up the membership and will produce recommendations for implementing and evaluating the pilot by February 28, 2020.

Full membership includes: Thomas Nelson, Minnesota State Bar Association; Sally Dahlquist, Inver Hills Community College; Maren Schroeder, Minnesota Paralegal Association; Tiffany Doherty-Schooler, Legal Aid Service of N.E. Minnesota; Pamela Wandzel, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.; Christopher O. Petersen, Ameriprise Financial; Bridget Gernander, State Court Administration; Liz Reppe, State Law Library; and Kim Larson, State Court Administration.

Scope

The scope of the Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project will be limited to one of three areas of unmet need in civil law—housing disputes, family law, and creditor-debtor disputes. These three civil case types have a high frequency of asymmetrical representation or low overall representation. Minnesota Judicial Branch data shows that in creditor-debtor cases, 96 percent of creditors have representation and seven percent of debtors have representation. Housing disputes see similarly unbalanced but also low rates of representation with 51 percent of landlords represented and three percent of tenants represented. In family law cases, the majority of parties are unrepresented.

Learn More

Keep up with the Implementation Committee's work and sign up for email updates:

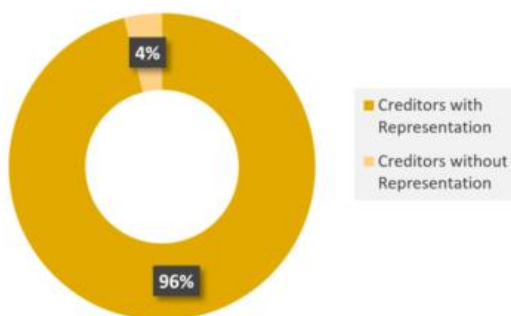
www.mncourts.gov/Implementation-Committee.aspx



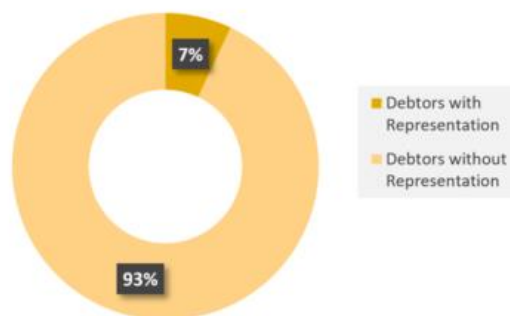
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Minnesota Case Types with Asymmetrical or Low Representation

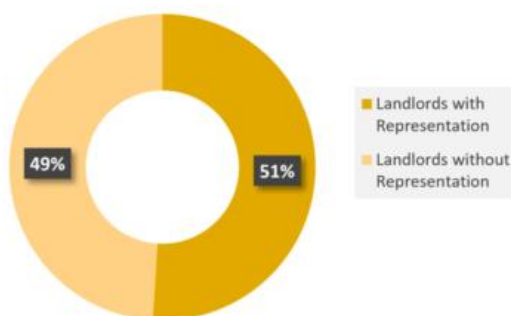
Creditors in Debtor-Creditor
Disputes



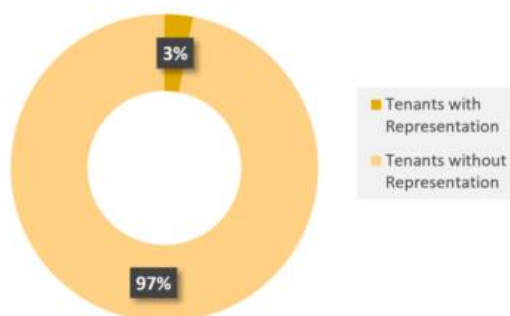
Debtors in Debtor-Creditor
Disputes



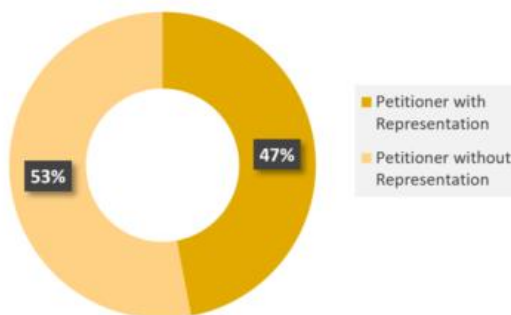
Landlords in Housing
Disputes



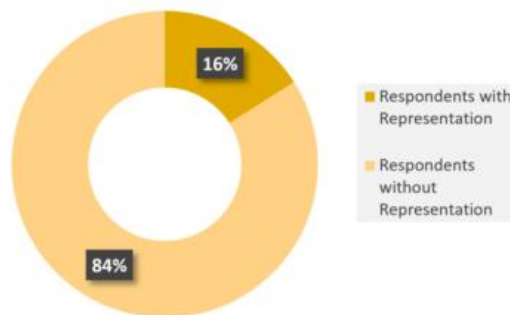
Tenants in Housing Disputes



Petitioners in Family Law
Disputes



Respondents in Family Law
Disputes



According to Minnesota Judicial Branch Data SRL data from 2016-2018

